Project	*Action Taken*
	of the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar. However, this line could not be considered as part of 3rd line as the alignments on Western side of Virar-Ahmedabad broad gauge line has been found most suitable for the 3rd line on operational consideration.
(vi) Gauge conversion of Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar & its extension upto Dhar	(vi) Survey for gauge conversion of Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar with extension to Dhar is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
(vii) Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Vijapur	(vii) On Ahmedabad-Vijapur section, work on gauge conversion of Kalol-Adraj Moti is alredy included in the Budget as a part of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol new line project. This will provide BG connection between Ahmedabad and Adraj moti, as a BG line already exists between Ahmedabad and Kalol.

(b) Yes, Sir. Plans have been finalized for obtaining private participation in gauge conversion project of Surendranagar-Rajula City with extension to Pipavav. It is also proposed to obtain private funding for gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Palanpur and Mahesana-Virmgam sections.

(c) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda section is being done on cost sharing basis. This work is in progress and expected to be completed during 2001-02.

Overaged assets in Railways

3655. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of overaged assets with Indian Railways;

(b) how Government propose to renew/replace these overaged assets;

(c) what is the estimated cost for this purpose; and

(d) how Government propose to mobilise resources for replacement of overaged assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Railway Safety Review Committee identified arrears in renewal of Track, Distressed Bridges, Over-aged Signalling Gear and Rolling Stock in 1999 as follows:

Track	12260 Km. (BG) 4996 Km. (MG)
Bridge	262 nos.
Signalling gear	1580 Stations (BG) 830 Stations (MG)
Coaches (nos. in vehicles)	1322 (BG) 1243 (MG)
Wagons (nos. in Four Wheeler Units)	34000

The total cost of renewals, which was estimated to be about Rs. 15000 crores, by the Committee has been reassessed with further accruals to be Rs. 17000 crores, at present day prices.

To fund replacement of these overaged assets, the Government has agreed in principle to set up a non-lapsable Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores. The detailed modalities for sourcing and operation of the fund are being worked out.

SEBs' dues to Railways

3656. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are withholding huge amounts of Railways for carrying coal to thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;